

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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R 122125Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8881
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 2774

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: ICEM LAUDS GOC FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: SANTIAGO 2551

1. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 14, ICEM SANTIAGO WILL RELEASE THE STATEMENT QUOTED BELOW LAUDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE FOR ITS ASSISTANCE IN THE RELEASE OF VIRTUALLY ALL "POLITICAL PRISONERS," I.E., THOSE DETAINED OR CONVICTED AND IN JAIL UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS. THIS CONSTITUTES ICEM'S PART OF THE BARGAIN STRUCK WITH THE GOC IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF REMAINING POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE STATEMENT WILL BE PUBLICLY RELEASED HERE, AT 12:30 LOCAL TIME (11:30 WASHINGTON) APRIL 14.

2. QUOTE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ANNOUNCED ON 5 APRIL THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO GRANT PARDON OR COMMUTATION OF PRISON SENTENCE TO EXILE FOR ALL PERSONS CONDEMNED BY MILITARY COURTS FOR INFRACTION OF THE INTERNAL STATE
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SECURITY LAW, COMMITTED BEFORE OR AFTER 11 SEPTEMBER 1973. THE LATTER WAS ALSO COMMUNICATED OFFICIALLY TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION, ICEM,

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THIS DECISION WILL PERMIT 96 PERSONS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, BRINGING THE NUMBER OF

CONVICTED PERSONS RESETTLED ABROAD TO 1,271 OF WHOM
47 HAD LIFE SENTENCES.

FURTHERMORE, 634 PERSONS DETAINED UNDER THE LAW OF
STATE OF SIEGE AND 73 CONDEMNED TO DIRECT EXILE WERE RE-
CEIVED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, SO THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF PRISONERS RESETTLED ABROAD UNDER ICEM AUSPICES WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME WILL THUS REACH 1,978.

HAVING ALMOST ACCOMPLISHED THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES
OF THESE UNPRECEDENTED PROGRAMMES, ICEM CONSIDERS THIS
OPPORTUNITY APPROPRIATE TO SUM UP THE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
UNDERTAKEN IN CHILE OVER THE LAST YEARS.

THE FIRST SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE IN THE
COUNTRY ORIGINATED FROM A REQUEST MADE BY THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1973 TO THE EFFECT THAT ICEM
COLLABORATE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES IN THE RESETTLEMENT ABROAD OF FOREIGN
REFUGEES WHO WISHED OR WERE OBLIGED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE REQUEST OF VARIOUS FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS ICEM ASSISTED WITH THE TRANSPORTATION OF
PERSONS WHO HAD TAKEN ASYLUM IN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN
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SUBSEQUENTLY , ON 4 DECEMBER 1974, AN AGREEMENT WAS
SIGNED WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH INITIATED THE
PROGRAMME OF RESETTLEMENT ABROAD OF PERSONS DETAINED
UNDER THE LAW OF STATE OF SIEGE.

FINALLY, IN MAY 1975, AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND ICEM LAUNCHED THE PLAN FOR RESETTLE-
MENT ABROAD OF PERSONS SENTENCED FOR INFRINGEMENT OF
THE INTERNAL STATE SECURITY LAW WITH PRISON SENTENCES
EXCHANGED FOR EXILE.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS RESETTLED IN FOREIGN
COUNTRIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMMES
WHICH WERE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE EX-DETAINEES AND PERSONS
TO WHOM VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS GRANTED VISAS AS WELL
AS THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF ALL OF THESE, WILL AMOUNT AT THE END
OF THE CURRENT MONTH TO 18,200 TRANSPORTED TO MORE THAN 40
COUNTRIES.

HAVING ESTABLISHED THIS BRIEF BALANCE OF ACTIVITIES,
ICEM IS PLEASED TO EMPHASIZE THE COOPERATION RECEIVED
FROM NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL AND

CHILEAN ORGANIZATIONS.

ICEM'S WORK WAS FACILITATED BY TWO MEASURES ADOPTED
BY THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES, NAMELY: THE AUTHORIZATION
TO VISIT FREELY AND WITHOUT WITNESSES IN THE PLACES OF

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DETENTION, THE DETAINEES AND PRISONERS WHO COULD BENEFIT
FROM THE SPECIAL PROGRAMMES, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INTER-
VENTION WHICH PERMITTED A FORTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN
THE AIR FARES FOR EVERYONE MOVED AS WELL AS A WAIVER
OF THEIR TRAVEL TAX.

ICEM CONSIDERS THAT IT SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE
RESULTS ACHIEVED ARE PRINCIPALLY DUE TO THE UNDERSTANDING
ON THE PART OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES
WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE COMMITTEE AND TO THE COLLABORATION
OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES. HAD THIS NOT BEEN SO, IT
WOULD HAVE PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE THIS EMINENTLY
HUMANITARIAN TASK WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE EXPERI-
ENCE AND KNOW-HOW THAT ICEM HAS GAINED THROUGH 26 YEARS OF AC-
TIVITY DURING WHICH MORE THAN 2,250,000 PERSONS RESETTLED IN
OTHER COUNTRIES.

IT IS IN THIS VERY SPIRIT, AND CONFIDENT THAT THE
CHILEAN AUTHORITIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL
CONTINUE TO GIVE FULL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

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THAT ICEM WILL GO ON LENDING ITS SERVICES WHERE THEY MAY
BE REQUIRED, FOR EXCLUSIVELY HUMANITARIAN REASONS TOTALLY
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS OR PHILOSOPHICAL
CONSIDERATIONS, FAITHFUL TO THE ESSENTIAL AND UNCHANGING
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSTITUTION. END QUOTE.

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